

# Incident Name: COVID-19 Jefferson County

Jefferson County Emergency Operations Center

## April 15, 2020 Update

### Incident Summary

- National Emergency declared 3/14/2020
- State Emergency declared 3/13/2020
- The Montana Governor has issued restrictions on certain business operations through 4/24/2020
- County Emergency declared 3/19/2020
- Town of Whitehall Emergency declared 3/19/2020.
- City of Boulder Emergency declared 3/26/2020.
- County Emergency Operations Center and Emergency Operations Plan activated by the Jefferson County office of Disaster and Emergency Services on 3/16/2020.
- County incident being managed under the Unified Command of Joan VanDuynhoven, Public Health Officer, and Doug Dodge, Disaster and Emergency Services Coordinator.
- County level daily operational coordination briefings are occurring, in addition to weekly planning meetings. The County Commission has a standing agenda item regarding COVID-19 on their weekly agenda.
- Debris burning is closed in Montana City and Basin.

### Incident Update (new items in bold)

1. **Since testing started in Jefferson County, there have been thirty-six individuals tested and two have been confirmed positive. At the time of this posting, there are no tests pending.**
2. **Jefferson County Fire Council has lifted the debris burning closure except in Montana City and Basin.**
3. Governor Steve Bullock has issued an order extending the following directives through April 24, 2020:
  - Stay at Home Directive and all of its terms,
  - Measures to limit foreclosures, evictions and disconnections from service and all of its terms,
  - Mandatory quarantine for certain travelers arriving in Montana and all of its terms,
  - Food and beverage businesses with restrictions not to be superseded by March 26<sup>th</sup> directive, and
  - The closure of all non-residential public schools.
4. Governor Steve Bullock ordered that emergency services providers are to be notified of contact with COVID-19 positive individuals, effective immediately.
5. Governor Steve Bullock encouraged those out in public to wear cloth masks covering their faces.
6. The Jefferson County Jail is no longer allowing any visitation.

7. The Jefferson County Commission has passed a resolution restricting public access to County offices and buildings. Those with County business need to call before visiting County offices for further direction from the department they would like to visit. Office phone numbers are available online at [www.jeffersoncountymt.gov](http://www.jeffersoncountymt.gov). It should be noted that physical protective measures are being taken to protect employees and the public at county facilities. These measures could impact certain functions of county departments and may lead to delays in requested services. The best way to avoid these delays is to utilize the electronic capabilities from each department.
8. The County Commission has established an online/call in platform for citizens to participate in County meetings remotely. At the designated meeting time, those wishing to participate can watch online by visiting <https://zoom.us/join> and entering the meeting ID 671-828-8589. Citizens can also access the meeting on their phones by calling 1-312-626-6799 and entering the meeting ID 671-828-8589. Finally, citizens can also download the Zoom app for their smartphones at:  
<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=us.zoom.videomeetings> (android users) or  
<https://apps.apple.com/us/app/zoom-cloud-meetings/id546505307> (apple users).

\*\*\*The past few weeks have been stressful for many families, healthcare providers, business owners and others. For mental health concerns, the SAMHSA no-cost disaster distress line can be accessed via 800-985-5990; by texting "talkwithus" to 66746 or visiting [disasterdistress.samhsa.gov](http://disasterdistress.samhsa.gov)\*\*\*

## Incident Closures/Restrictions

- All county schools (by order of the Governor) through 4/24/2020.  
Certain businesses such as restaurants and bars (by order of the Governor) through 4/24/2020.
- Jefferson County is restricting access to county facilities, please call ahead prior to visiting.
- Clancy, Boulder and Whitehall libraries – limited access, call for information.
- Most in-person meetings should be postponed until further notice – check with the agency sponsoring the meeting for updates.
- Debris burning is closed in Montana City and Basin.

## Incident Contacts

**COVID-19 hotline: 1-888-333-0461**

COVID-19 website: <https://covid19.mt.gov/>

COVID-19 email: [covid19info@mt.gov](mailto:covid19info@mt.gov)

Jefferson County Public Health: 406-225-4007

Jefferson County Disaster and Emergency Services: 406-225-4035